



DNR REPORTS . . . by Glenn Therres

And now the rest of the manatee story! Well by now you probably have heard that we eventually did catch the wily manatee. In fact it was caught the same day my last article arrived at the editor's for printing. Here's what happened.

After our disappointment on the evening of September 28, we took the next two days off to regroup and discuss strategy. Also the wind had picked up such that we could not use the DNR helicopter for air support. The helicopter was an integral part of the capture process, since it served as the eyes of the operation.

On Saturday morning, October 1 the conditions were right and the manatee was back in Queenstown Harbor. The first step was to place a large net all the way across the creek, effectively blocking off any possible escape. A second smaller net was to be used to capture the animal. A few times the manatee swam to the large net and prodded it with its nose, looking for a way out. Each time swimmers in the water scared it back by splashing and making noise.

The manatee was then herded by small boats toward shallow water. Once it moved into shallow water, the smaller net was deployed. Slowly swimmers encircled the manatee with the smaller net. There was no doubt we had it this time! Once the manatee was netted, it took some time to decide how to get it out of the water. A special stretcher for moving marine mammals was slipped under the manatee. As this was happening, the manatee made a last ditch effort to escape and trashed its fan-shaped tail showering mud and slime over the rescuers.

The soaked swimmers then lifted the manatee in the stretcher to the shoreline. There a local towing service volunteered to haul the manatee out of the water and to the awaiting National Aquarium's rescue truck. The manatee was rolled onto foam padding on the bed of the trailer. From the flat-bed trailer the manatee was hoisted into the Aquarium's rescue truck. An hour and a half later it was at the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

The manatee turned out to be an adult male, weighing in at 1,416 pounds. His health was monitored for a few days at the Aquarium, then he was flown to Florida on a Coast Guard C-130 transport plane. MOS member and DNR biologist Dave Brinker was one of the lucky ones to accompany the manatee to Orlando. Once there the manatee

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THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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Federal Matching Obtained For MOS FUNDAECO Contributions

by Larry Fry

MOS has been informed that recent contributions to the FUNDAECO rain forest fund have been matched by federal challenge grants. The \$3,100 which was raised at the 1994 MOS Conference was matched by an equal amount. Dr. Peter Stangel of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, recently provided information concerning the matching grant. The Foundation channels federal challenge grants to deserving organizations for conservation and wildlife projects.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a private nonprofit organization established by



Congress in 1984 to promote conservation of fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and to build partnerships between private and public sectors. The Foundation awards challenge grants of federal funds, which must be matched by nonfederal funds raised by the grantee. The Foundation is also very active in the Partners in Flight project.

Currently MOS has on hand \$999 designated for FUNDAECO. A total of \$359 was donated after the '94 Conference by individuals. In addition, the Talbot Chapter recently donated \$640.

Any individual or chapter that wishes to donate to the FUNDAECO project should send their check to Larry Fry, MOS Treasurer, 1202 Ridge Road, Pylesville, MD 21132, (410) 452-8539.

chapter chatter

by Jane Hill

Book Dedication — A new book, *Birds of Tropical America: A watcher's introduction to behavior, breeding and diversity*, by Steven Hilty, is dedicated to Montgomery Chapter member Margaret Bullock. Margaret encouraged Mr. Hilty to write the book from the start, and also reviewed two drafts of the manuscript, reading each draft three times. "Her boundless curiosity was a delight....", reads the leading acknowledgment. The book, which came out in September 1994, was published by Chapters Publishing Ltd., Shelburne, Vermont. It covers such topics as the structure of a rain forest bird community, tropical bird diversity, mixed-species flocks, colorfulness in tropical and temperate birds, foraging tactics of fruit-eating birds, hummingbird foraging strategies, highland hummingbirds, tropical river islands, etc.

Bringing bird information to school children — Both the Montgomery and the Harford Chapters are preparing slide shows of local birds to show to local school children. The Montgomery Chapter is writing an accompanying script, and Harford is compiling a list of supplementary activities to do with the students. If you have any slides to donate, contact Bill Kulp (Montgomery), at 301-593-4617, or Jean Fry (Harford), at 410-452-8539. In addition, the Harford Chapter is planning to donate plastic-coated posters on bird identification to the science departments of about 10 schools a year.

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The Sanctuary Report

by Dotty Mumford

Great things are happening at Irish Grove Sanctuary. The new plumbing was installed last May and, as an experiment, the plumber installed a shower on the outside of the house. This shower consists of a shower head mounted on the side of the house with hot and cold taps feeding into a single line. There is no privacy screening of any kind. According to the log, some of the people staying at the house have actually used this outdoor shower and enjoyed it! **Please note:** the plumbing at Irish Grove has now been winterized and there will be no water available there until the first week of April 1995.

Progress was made this summer on restoring the fields and roads. Although the summers preceding this past one have been dry for most of the state, they were wet at Irish Grove, which made it difficult to get heavy equipment in to fill the ever-expanding potholes in the roads to Round Pond and Canal Trail. This summer the situation was reversed. While most of the state was having heavy rain throughout the summer, Irish Grove was very dry. So, while the conditions were ripe, Randy Stadler had several truckloads of sand

mixture brought in to fill the bad areas in the roads. Randy also was able to have brush hogs come in and mow areas in our overgrown fields. We hope to maintain these fields as habitat for woodcocks and quail; in order to do this we need to mow portions of the fields on a regular schedule. The fields had not been mowed for several years, so this summer's mowing was essential to get us back on track.

The workday at Irish Grove on October 29 was very successful. The weather was picture perfect, with clear blue skies and a temperature near 70, and we got a lot of work done. Pruning was done along most of the trails, including a few new ones in the mowed fields. More pruning was done around the house. Randy mowed more of the fields and a crew worked at clear-cutting strips in a small pine grove for woodcock habitat. Another crew built a step bridge to the beginning of the South Marsh Trail. Yet another group worked in the house, cleaning out the museum exhibit cabinets, patching the roof, and repairing the living-room ceiling. The Wicomico Chapter catered a wonderful mid-day meal, with those marvelous roast turkeys once again provided by Ruth Denit.

Thirty people participated in the workday. Ten spent Friday night at the house, twelve spent Saturday night (enjoying slides shown by Jim Stasz), and one stayed over till Monday. Those staying over on Saturday were able to bird along Rumbly Point Road that evening, seeing sedge wrens and short-eared owls. On Sunday people birded and canoed before doing the close-up cleaning of the house.

A big **THANK YOU** to all of the participants: *Anne Arundel*—Laddie Flyger, Kit Hasselhoff, Dotty Mumford, Barbara Ricciardi, Sue Ricciardi, and Marilyn Taylor; *Baltimore*—Brent & Mary Byers, Mike Knott, and Joy & Ben Wheeler; *Carroll*—Bob Ringler; *Cecil*—Paul, Linda & Karl Bystrak; *Frederick*—Marilyn Yost; *Kent*—Maggie Duncan; *Wicomico*—Polly Batchelder, Jerry Daenzer, Ruth Denit, Jim Doyle, Ben Jones, Griffin & Mable Martin, Elizabeth Pitney, Susan Potts, Cissy Sanders, and Randy & Bobbie Stadler; *Member-at-large*—Jim Stasz.

We need stainless flatware (knives, forks, spoons, and serving pieces) to replace what was stolen last year at Irish Grove. If you have any old stainless that you would be willing to donate to Irish Grove, it would be greatly appreciated. We also need some cooking utensils—spatulas, spoons, ladles, forks, and a corkscrew (thanks to Mike Knott's ingenuity we were able to open the wine bottle). Donated items can be given to your local chapter president to take to the next Board of Directors' meeting on March 18 or you can contact Dotty Mumford directly at (410) 849-8336.



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DNR Reports . . .

was housed at Sea World for additional health monitoring. On October 7, one week after its capture, the wily manatee was released back to the wild in the Banana River at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge near Kennedy Space Center. There he joined a female manatee and swam away.

Prior to release, three types of radio transmitters were attached to a belt around the base of the manatee's tail to help track the movements of the animal. It moved about 15 miles away before its transmitter was detached in early November. It is believed that the transmitter broke off while the manatee was frolicking in a mating group he became associated with. Hopefully he, and any of his offspring, will decide to stay put in the warmer waters of Florida.

To be involved in these rescue efforts was very exciting and made me proud to be a wildlife biologist. This was truly a cooperative effort, with its ultimate success dependent on all the players involved. They included employees of DNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Aquarium in Baltimore, and Sea World of Florida, and the volunteers with the Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

Partners in Flight update - On Saturday, November 5 the second annual general meeting for Maryland Partners in Flight was held at the brand new visitor center at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Over 60 participants, many from MOS, attended the one day meeting. Presentations on various Neotropical migratory bird projects in Maryland were given. Updates on the progress made by the five working committees were also given. The goals, objectives and tasks identified by the committees for the 5-year conservation plan were discussed and input received from the participants. By early 1995 a draft of the plan will be available for review. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please let me know.

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If you have a change of address or are experiencing difficulties with MOS mailings, contact the Mailing List Coordinator, William Guion, 8007 Martown Road, Laurel, MD 20723, (301) 490-0444.

All other questions regarding the Maryland Ornithological Society should be referred to the Executive Secretary, Will Tress, 203 Gittings Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21212, (800).823-0050 (in MD).

For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the March/April 1995 issue are:

March-May Calendar Activities:
January 25, 1995

All Other Submissions:
February 1, 1995

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Chapter Chatter

Texas trip scheduled for April — Big Bend and the Rio Grande valley are the targets of an Anne Arundel Chapter trip tentatively set for April 8-15, 1995. The trip is open to all MOSers. For more information, contact Pete Hanan, 301-858-1633.

"The Hummingbird Connection" — Ross Hawkins, member of both the Harford and Cecil Chapters, is creator and editor of a new bird publication, *The Hummingbird Connection—An International Newsletter About Hummingbirds*. Issue No. 4, which appeared in August 1994, was sent to subscribers in 39 states and two foreign countries. The newsletter has departments dealing with hummer gardens and travel, and a "close encounters" forum for readers to share memorable experiences with hummingbirds. The August issue featured articles on unwanted feeder visitors and a mystery hummer, and answered commonly asked questions about hummingbirds. For more information about the newsletter, call 1-800-307-2207.

Cecil Hawkwatch — This fall marked the start of a hawkwatch for the fledgling Cecil Chapter, which was formed just last spring. The watch logged about 115 hawk-counting hours on Turkey Point, at the tip of the Elk Neck peninsula, and recorded approximately 2,800 birds, including four Rough-legged Hawks.

On the trail of Prothonotaries... — The Cecil Chapter is also beginning, this winter, a Prothonotary Warbler nest box trail.

...And of Kestrels and Barn Owls — Last spring and summer, members of the Jug Bay Chapter volunteered as monitors of American Kestrel and Barn Owl nest boxes throughout Prince George's County. The nest box project, sponsored by Prince George's Audubon, so far boasts 143 Kestrel boxes and 36 Barn Owl boxes, with a goal of 200 Kestrel and 50 Barn Owl boxes. In 1994, 71 Kestrels were fledged from 17 active nests, and about 20 Barn Owls from five nests. To volunteer as a monitor, call Kerry Fitzpatrick, 301-967-8529.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: MD Partners in Flight Needs Slides of Birds & Habitats

by Ellen Lawler

Maryland Partners In Flight (MD PIF) is a recently formed partnership of organizations and individuals committed to the conservation of neotropical migratory landbirds. There are four working committees: Research, Monitoring, Management, and Education. The Education Committee is currently preparing a slide show, and will soon be working on an exhibit and brochure, focusing on neotropical migratory landbirds (NMLs), their status and threats, and on MD PIF.

Below is a list of the slides we need for these purposes. If you have sharp, clear slides of any of the subjects listed below and wish to submit them for possible inclusion in any of our projects, please send **duplicate** slides (one of each image submitted) with your name on the mount, together with your name, address, and phone number on a separate sheet to Ellen Lawler, Department of Biological Sciences, Salisbury State University, Salisbury, MD 21801 by February 15, 1995. If you have questions, please call Ellen Lawler at (410) 543-6496 (Office) or (410) 546-9056 (Home).

The submitted slides will become the property of MD PIF, whether they are used or not and **will not be returned** to the photographer. The images will not be copyrighted (so that copies of the slide program can be made), however, photographers of slides used will be given written credit. We are also in need of recorded songs and calls of the species listed below. If you have, or know of, good quality recordings, please get in touch with Ellen.

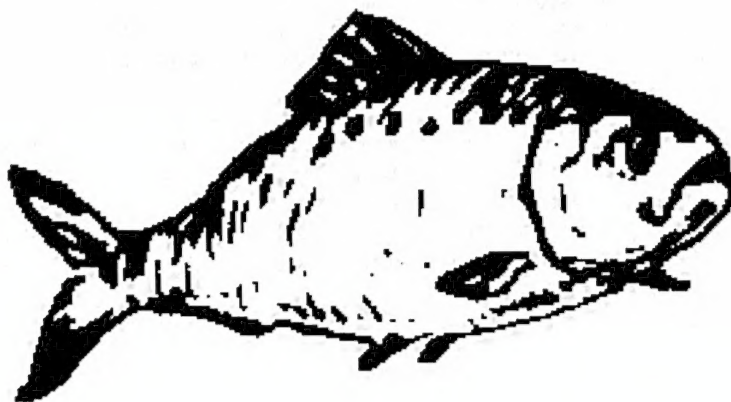
Bird species. We would appreciate receiving good quality slides of any NML, but especially the following: **Baltimore oriole**, including both sexes, various stages of life cycle (nesting, rearing young, in tropics); **Warblers**—black-and-white, black-throated green, black-throated blue, cerulean, worm-eating, blue-winged, golden-winged, Swainson's, Blackburnian, chestnut-sided, prairie, Kentucky, prothonotary, yellow-breasted chat,

blackpoll, ovenbird, and Louisiana waterthrush; **Vireos**—yellow-throated, red-eyed, white-eyed, and solitary; **Tanagers**—scarlet and summer; **Cuckoos**—yellow-billed and black-billed; **Wrens**—sedge and marsh; **wood thrush**; **Flycatchers**—Acadian, great-crowned, olive-sided, and eastern wood-pewee; **grasshopper sparrow**; **eastern meadowlark** and **bobolink**; **loggerhead shrike**; **gray catbird**; **ruby-throated hummingbird**; **whip-poor-will**; **chuck-will's-widow**; **chimney swift**; **common nighthawk**; **upland sandpiper**; **short-eared owl**; **osprey**; **northern harrier**; **Hawks**—red-shouldered and broad-winged; **brown-headed cowbirds**—adults, eggs in nest, neotropical species feeding cowbird young; **Predators**—raccoons, cats, crows, blue jays; **Year-round neotropical residents.**

Locations in Maryland. Barrier Islands, including Assateague; Point Lookout; Beltwoods; Soldiers Delight; Rock Creek Park (portion in Maryland); Savage River State Forest; Catoctin Mountains; Nassawango Creek, Pocomoke River drainage; Nanticoke River; Cranesville Swamp, Finzel Swamp; Spruce/hardwood forests of Garrett County; any other locations which are important for nesting and/or migrating NMLs.

Also needed. LandSat images of Delmarva; aerial views of cropland, extensive forest, fragmented forest, urban development; good and bad examples of timbering in state; examples of private landowners landscaping for NMLs; tropical forest—intact, showing fragmentation; researchers—in Maryland and in the tropics with birds in the hand, at mist nets, doing BBS or atlas; birders—in various habitats (especially if recognizable location).

Thank you for your support of this project! If you are interested in joining or working with the Education Committee, please contact Ellen Lawler at (410) 543-6496. For more information on MD PIF, call Glenn Therres or Jim McCann at (410) 827-8612.





The Conservation Corner

by Rich Dolesh

Conservation and the Conservative Congress

What does the recent takeover of Congress by a solid conservative majority mean for the future of birds and bird habitat? It is a question that will become increasingly important for organizations like the Maryland Ornithological Society in the coming months. It is a question with implications not just for the United States, but for the entire globe. A sober analysis will show that both national and international efforts to promote the stewardship and conservation of birds will likely be directly and negatively affected by the conservative congressional majority.

There are a number of important conservation priorities that rank high on the hit list of the Republican Congress. Among them are any federal mandates which impose federal regulatory authority without regard for consequences of the impact of conservation mandates in relation to their costs.

Another target is the group of regulations known as the "takings laws." Conservative politicians and individual rightists have been implacable in their determination to require the government to compensate landowners for "takings." "Takings" are alleged to occur when regulatory activity imposes limitations on land development potential, restricts the possibility of achieving maximum potential profit, requires ecosystem management resulting in costs to the landowner, etc.

There are other legislative and regulatory priorities of the new Congress which will take more time to implement, but which may affect conservation priorities just as much. Their potential effects are not yet clear. For example, there will be legislation to require cost assessments and cost-benefit analyses before any regulatory laws are enacted. Concomitantly, there will be requirements to reduce the burdens to the private sector, and pertinently, requirements to reduce the costs of complying with those regulations.

Still, what does it mean for birds and bird habitat?

At this writing, there is not yet a clear answer. Oh, there was much hand-wringing and bleating from the complacent in the conservation community when the storm of conservatism rolled across Congress, and there has been much hot air expended in the resulting brouhaha. But make no mistake, the "Contract for America" is as much a manifesto as it is a blueprint for the future direction of American government. As such, it will guide legislative policy for at least several years to come. Does it mean that all important conservation initiatives will be trashed? Not necessarily, but there's a rub...

Take the Endangered Species Act (ESA), for example. If there was ever a federal regulation to make the conservative establishment gnash their teeth, this is it. The snail darter. The Furbish lousewort. The spotted owl. Not enough? Take the absurd case of the kangaroo rat in California. Think you have heard it all? Wait till you hear how the federal government has managed the protection of this species. Ask some landowners whose homes

were burned down because they complied with the management plan requirements.

Nevertheless, the Endangered Species Act has prevented more inappropriate industrial and commercial development in critical natural areas than any other federal, state, or local law in twenty-five years. Has it directly helped in the protection of birds and bird habitat? Unquestionably. Is it perhaps the biggest target of all for gutting by the new Congress? Take the bet, believe me.

How about the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species? As recently reported in the national press, it is currently at the heart of a storm over how much protection should be afforded to endangered and threatened species around the world. Developed countries, particularly those in Europe, have demanded extremely tough restrictions on the trade of endangered species, both dead and alive. Developing countries demand a loosening of those restrictions based on the theory that if there is an economic benefit from trading in those species, then there will be a corresponding benefit from voluntarily protecting them for "sustainable use." The implications for the continued—or reinstated—trade in many species of tropical birds are profound.

Does the repudiation of our nation's best conservation laws have to be the legacy of our current conservative-dominated Congress? Perhaps not.

This is our task: Regardless of political stripe, MOS members, along with other responsible conservationists, must be ready to stand up and be counted for conservation. Time after time, pollsters have shown that overwhelming majorities of Americans of all ages and political affiliations have supported strong laws for conservation of natural resources and rare species. Time after time, polls have shown that people are actually willing to **pay** more for conservation, both voluntarily and through taxes. There is no question that the American public has declared that they will pay for public education and public safety. It is our task to help show elected leaders that we will pay for conservation and quality of life as well.

The Republican sweep in the midterm elections was the peal of a bell heard round the nation. It does not have to signal the death knell of the conservation gains of the last two decades. A conservative Congress does not necessarily have to be a destructive Congress.

One of the most refreshing things about MOS as an organization is its deep commitment to conservation, without a corresponding political agenda. We are 4,000 members strong. We cover the entire political spectrum, and we are equally committed to the cause of conservation. There is a lesson to be learned from our strength and commitment, and it is up to us to demonstrate it to the new Congress. It can be a model for the nation.

A Review of *Sketching Outdoors in All Seasons*

by Jim Arnosky

reviewed by Pamela Van Velsir

This book is a large-format paperback written by artist and nature lover Jim Arnosky. The book records Arnosky's experiences sketching outdoors through the four seasons of the year beginning with spring. The poetic text is illustrated with many full-page pencil drawings of scenes and subjects from nature on and around the author's Vermont farm. Also included are notes about the individual drawings offering tips and helpful suggestions as well as observations of nature. Could this book be a resource for birders who wish to make quick sketches to document field sightings?

As I read the book I felt Arnosky's joy in observing nature and in recording those observations through the seasons. Springtime brings fiddleheads in all their fuzziness, "looking about in all directions," Jack-in-the-Pulpits with rich tones and soft grays and small springtime leaves which "seen from a distance appear as dots." As he drew the piglets on his farm, Arnosky observed the "marked improvement" of the figures with each sketch and encourages the reader to not become discouraged with first attempts which turn out bad.

Summertime brings coiled snakes with the pattern of the scales, fuzzy young birds by the nest and the structure of a lettuce plant which appears to be just leafy, but upon closer observation is discovered to have a stem or stalk. He looks at frogs, fish, and turtles, as well as the graceful lines of his canoe, Musquash.



Merlin perched in
snow - Silver Spring MD
11/15/04

Arnosky "sketched autumn coming" at a clear mountain lake. He had us look into the deep dark impression of a moose track in mud. The season finds seed heads bursting forth from a milkweed plant on a windy day and the twisted branches of an almost leafless old apple tree which still had "a good many yellow apples still clinging to its branches."

Winter lets us look at the structure of a bird nest and a "hornet nest after storm and blue jay damage." Arnosky explains how the shadows on the snow define the slope of the land underneath and shows the dark stream beneath a snowbank. Some winters also bring a snowy owl which he describes sketching by viewing it through his spotting scope.

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A Review of *The Art of Field Sketching*

by Clare Walker Leslie

reviewed by Rick Sussman

After reading Claire Walker Leslie's *The Art of Field Sketching*, I was left with the feeling that although not everyone can learn to draw, anyone can learn to field sketch. However, if your only desire is to learn to sketch birds for identification purposes or otherwise, other books may better fit your needs. But if you want to learn the true art of field sketching, not just birds but everything in nature, from a professional artist, there are few volumes that offer more.

This is a book that seems much thicker than its 190 pages would suggest. Lavishly illustrated and packed with good, useful information, there is something to learn on every page. The author starts by defining the difference between sketching and drawing: "sketching is that method of quick, gestural drawing that has as its purpose the study of nature rather than the study of drawing. Drawing, on the other hand, I define as a method intended to produce finished works of art."

After a foreword by Roger Tory Peterson, in which he states "even for a lifelong artist such as me, this book is an excellent refresher course," and a preface in which Leslie discusses the purpose of the book, she starts with the basics of equipment. This chapter really helps the beginner get a feel for what to use; she gives great tips on the different types of papers available, and the various tools for sketching, including pencils, pen and ink, and water colors. It was interesting to learn in this chapter that famed Canadian wildlife artist Robert Bateman prefers a ball-point pen to other tools when sketching outdoors.

Leslie also discusses other useful equipment, including binoculars and hand lenses, cameras, day packs, and field guides. Two paragraphs are written about appropriate clothing, but she says nothing that common sense wouldn't dictate. I like the fact that Leslie cautions against picking, collecting, or cutting any specimens unless you know that it is permitted. She offers a full paragraph on this subject, a sensitive area that we all need to be concerned with. Lastly, Clare Walker Leslie reminds us that "perhaps the most important thing to have is a desire to be outdoors and to observe with true curiosity," something we, as birders, all share.

The second chapter deals with beginning exercises and basic techniques, and again the author offers up her sound advice: "never draw anything that doesn't interest you, or your drawing will reflect your attitude" and "have patience with yourself, allowing time to experiment, throw away, and 'waste' paper. This is not a course that will take one month to master but many months and many seasons."

Chapter three deals with keeping a field journal, something more of us need to practice. With Leslie's guidance, it may become a pleasure more than a chore. The rest of the book is organized by habitat rather than by subject, since she feels outdoor sketching involves being out in a variety of locations at all seasons. These chapters include sketching around the home, sketching nature in the city, sketching in the country, and by the water. And though she dedicates only five or six pages specifically to sketching while bird watching,



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Van Velsir Review

Along with the poetic text the author gives many useful tips: when to use thick and thin lines, how to use a kneaded eraser to highlight areas, and when to crouch low so as not to frighten wildlife. Other tips include keeping the kneaded eraser warm in winter inside one's glove and protecting the drawing paper from rain and snow by placing another piece of paper over it in the form of a tent.

Sketching Outdoors in All Seasons is an enjoyable book to read and inspiring to artist and nature lover alike. It is not, however, an appropriate resource for birders who would like to learn to make quick sketches of birds to document field sightings. It does not provide sufficient instruction in the basic elements of drawing: line, shape, form, texture, and value. To a limited extent, Arnosky does discuss texture and value, but this book is really aimed at those who have already established their artistic talents and are now attempting to get in touch with nature. For the other kind of budding artist—one who is in touch with nature but needs to develop some basic artistic skills, I recommend *The Art of Field Sketching*, by Clare Walker Leslie, which covers the basic elements of drawing and is complete with exercises to help the student learn.

Sketching Outdoors in All Seasons, by Jim Arnosky, The Countryman Press, Woodstock, Vermont, 1993, paperback, 180 pages, \$20.00. Our reviewer, Pamela Van Velsir, started birding with the Audubon Naturalist Society in the 1970s and became a member of the Anne Arundel Chapter in 1980. She has taught art in the Anne Arundel County School System for over 20 years, so she clearly knows both her birds and her art.

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Sussman Review

there are many drawings scattered throughout the entire book showing how other artists deal with sketching birds in the field.

If you've always wanted to sketch nature in the field but never have, this book will encourage you. If you already do field sketching, it will help guide you to improving your techniques. Even if you have no interest in field sketching, studying the artwork in these pages will help you to see the natural world through new eyes, with a better understanding of detail and of the play of light and shadow. It will increase and enhance your awareness of the natural world.

The Art of Field Sketching, by Clare Walker Leslie, Gibbs Smith Publishers, Salt Lake City, UT, 1993, paperback, 190 pages, \$14.95. Our reviewer for this book, Rick Sussman, a member of the Montgomery County Chapter, is an avid amateur naturalist and artist and an all-around good birding companion. The accompanying illustrations of a female red-winged blackbird and a merlin are Rick's and he is currently working on a batch of entries for the 1995 patch and pin contest.

Mini-Lecture

Cryptosporidium and Wildlife

by Joseph M. Lewandowski

You may have read in the newspaper or heard on the news about the outbreaks of cryptosporidium linked with the water supply of cities. Investigations into these outbreaks have led researchers to believe that the cryptosporidium parasite was in the surface water in the area and it was this surface water that was the source of the drinking water for the community. The water treatment system in these communities did not filter out or destroy the parasite, resulting in the parasite being present in the drinking water.

Cryptosporidium is a parasite that was first recognized in 1971 as the cause of diarrhea disease in livestock. Transmitted fecal-orally, the parasite oocyst makes its way into a watercourse and remains dormant until it is ingested by a new host. While in the gut of the new host, the oocyst walls break down and sporozoites invade the intestinal epithelial cells, and bring on the symptoms of cryptosporidiosis. These symptoms are similar to the symptoms one would experience if one had the flu. While the disease will run its course, immuno-suppressed individuals have a very difficult time with this illness.

Due to the resistance of this parasite to disinfectant chemicals and the fact that filtration does not guarantee the removal of the parasite from the water supply, many communities are relying on the protection of the watershed to protect their surface drinking water sources. This is where the wildlife issue comes in. While efforts can be in place to limit the livestock on a watershed, it is much more difficult to limit wildlife. New York City has shown that by preventing geese from roosting on the reservoir used by the city, it can reduce the coliform bacteria count that would otherwise exist in the reservoir and thus help protect the water supply.

The concept is that if the parasite is transmitted fecally, any effort to prevent or reduce fecal matter from entering the water supply would effectively limit the exposure of the population to the parasite. As bird lovers, we can all see what effect the disruption of a bird's habitat can have on the existence of our feathered friends. We must wait and watch and see whether technology can help us overcome this parasitic disease or whether the wildlife populations will suffer the consequences of man's domination on our planet.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Delmarva Birding Festival

The first Delmarva Birding Festival will be held the weekend of May 5-7, 1995, on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Sponsored by the MD Department of Natural Resources, the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, and others, the weekend is billed as a celebration of spring migration and Maryland's wildlife. The programs currently being planned include a visit with pelicans, a night out with owls, bats, and frogs, a search for the endangered black rail, birding for migratory warblers, many boat and canoe trips, and much, much more. The weekend is being planned as a "watchable" wildlife experience for the whole family. To get your name on the mailing list, so that you'll receive more detailed information when it becomes available, write to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, Tawes State Office Bldg., E-1, Annapolis, MD 21401-9914, or call Edith Thompson at (410) 974-3195.

Gull Day, '95

Gull Day '95, the fourth annual midwinter regional gull survey, will take place on Saturday, January 28, 1995. The idea for Gull Day was born in 1992. Rick Blom and Gene Scarpulla had just tallied 10 lesser black-backed gulls at Conowingo Dam and they began to speculate as to how many of the less common gull species could be found wintering in Maryland on any given day. The goal of Gull Day is to achieve same-day coverage of all the major gull concentration sites throughout the MD/DC area. In 1993, the survey expanded into Delaware and Virginia.

Gull Day takes place each year on the fourth Saturday of January, between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon and involves both species identification

and age determination. The data obtained will be used to create baseline information on wintering gull populations; to assess the status of both common and uncommon gull species; to evaluate the relationships among age classes; and to allow for year-by-year comparisons for trend analyses of population changes, shifting winter ranges, and the micro-distribution of age classes and species.

Although coverage has been quite good the first three years of the count, we always have room for more counters, both experienced and inexperienced. If you are experienced in the identification and aging of gulls, you could volunteer to survey a previously uncensused location. If you're not familiar with gull identification but have a desire to learn, you can participate at any location that already has an experienced observer. This will benefit everyone by sharpening skills and training new observers for future Gull Days. If you would like to take part in Gull Day '95, contact either Rick Blom at (410) 893-4339, or Gene Scarpulla at (410) 821-0575, evenings.

Shenandoah Peregrine Survey

The National Park Service in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park is looking for a few hardy birders! Once again they will be carrying out a peregrine falcon cliff nest site survey between March 1 and April 30. Volunteers will be expected to spend 4-6 hours at a site per day, preferably for 2-3 days, but not necessarily continuous days. Participants will have to be present from 1/2-hour before sunrise to 2-3 hours after sunrise, or from 2-3 hours before sunset to 1/2-hour after sunset.

Volunteers for this program need to be able to identify peregrine falcons and recognize the dis-

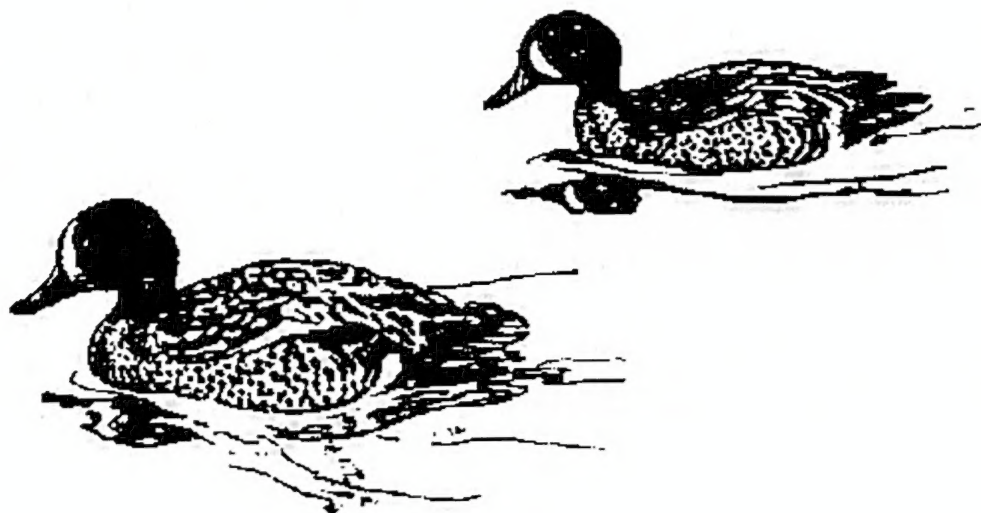
plays and other activities associated with courtship. You should be able to hike short to long distances and be able to endure the sometimes harsh weather conditions encountered at this time of year. You must also be willing and able to record your observations and prepare a report in a legible and professional manner.

The work is entirely voluntary in nature. Entrance fees to the Park will be waived for the duration of the project and back-country camping will be allowed. Shenandoah National Park will provide necessary maps, instructions, and other supplies. Participants must have hiking boots, warm clothing, rain gear, camping equipment if desired, and appropriate field guides.

Does this sound like a project you would like to get involved with? If so, contact Keith Watson at Shenandoah National Park, Route 4 Box 348, Luray, Virginia 22835, or by phone at 703-999-3496.

MOS Has A New Phone Number!

As noted in the last two issues, MOS now has a telephone number: 1-800-823-0050. This is a toll-free call from anywhere in Maryland. Outside of Maryland and within the Baltimore calling area the number is (410) 244-0032. Calls are directed to a telephone "mailbox" with a general message about the Society. Additional messages—such as Board meeting cancellations—will be appended to this message. Will Tress, the MOS Executive Secretary, will be checking the "mailbox" regularly and responding to calls or forwarding them as needed. All members should feel free to contact him at this number. Please advertise the number as widely as possible throughout the state so that potential new members can get in touch with MOS quickly and efficiently.



MOS Calendar January/March, 1995

Friday, January 6

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Sora Rail Research at Jug Bay on the Patuxent River" by Gregg Kearns. 8:00 p.m. at Severn River Junior High School, Peninsula Farm Rd., Arnold

Sunday, January 8

MEETING. Baltimore. Covered Dish Supper. 5:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. Lecture follows. "Island Birds" by Hank Kaestner. Register with Mary Byers at 410-686-7294 by Thursday, Jan 5.

Thursday, January 12

MEETING. Montgomery. "Three Centuries of Birds" by Janet Millenson. 8:00 p.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac.

Friday, January 13

MEETING. Cecil. Program TBA. 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary Anne's Parish in North East. Call Gary Griffith at 410-392-4491 for details.

MEETING. Harford. "Birds of Alaska: Kenai, Denali, and the Pribiloffs" by Larry & Jean Fry. Starts at 7:30 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, intersection of MD 136 & MD 22. For additional information call Jean Fry at 410-452-8539.

Saturday, January 14

FEEDER TOUR. Harford. Morning tour of three homes in Harford County for feeder watching and socializing. Space limited. For further information and reservations, call Carole Vangrin at 410-838-5264 by Wednesday, January 11.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Waterfowl Search. Local hotspots for wintering gulls and waterfowl. Trip designed for beginners or birders new to area. Participation is limited to 15 — please contact the leader, Norm Saunders, at 301-989-9035, evenings before 8:30 p.m., for information or to reserve your spot. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the spot designated by the leader.

Sunday, January 15

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Meyer's Station. Owls, Woodcocks, Breakfast. Meet 4:00 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Leo Weigant, at 301-464-0136.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Riding trip for Winter Birds. Leader's choice of area. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Park & Ride lot next to the MVA, west side of MD Rt. 65, south of I-70. For further information, contact the leader, Bob Keedy, at 301-733-7708.

Thursday, January 19

MEETING. Caroline. "Colorado Pawnee Grasslands, High Rockies and Colorado Plateau" by Dr. Robert Trevor. 7:30 p.m. at Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Meeting Room, 24820 Meeting House Road, Denton.

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Northeastern Exposure", Maine and the Canadian Maritime's by Wally and Joan Stephens. 7:00 p.m. at Patuxent River Park. For more information call 301-627-6074.

Saturday, January 21

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Conowingo Dam and Cecil County Landfill. Thousands of gulls, possibly some rarities, as well as waterfowl, raptors and eagles. Wear warm clothing and boots. Telescopes useful. Meet 7:30 a.m. at White Marsh Mall on the NE side of Sears. For further information, contact the leader, Gene Scarpulla, at 410-821-0575.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Conowingo Dam for gulls, waterfowl, and eagles. Gull rarities very likely at this time of year. Meet 9:00 a.m. at Fisherman's Park below the dam in Harford County. Both Harford and Baltimore chapters are also visiting the dam on this date. Those interested may wish to accompany the Baltimore Club on a side trip to the Cecil County landfill later in the day. For further information, contact Gary Griffith at 410-392-4491.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Gull Watch. Possible species include Lesser Black-backed, Iceland, & Common Black-headed Gulls. Meet at the Fisherman's Park observation platform at 9:00 a.m. For further information, contact Dave Webb at 410-569-0107.

Monday, January 23

MEETING. Wicomico. "Distribution and Population Trends of Maryland Colonial Waterbirds" by Dave Brinker, Maryland Forest, Park and Wildlife Service. 7:30 p.m. at the Asbury United Methodist Church, Salisbury.

Tuesday, January 24

MEETING. Washington. Pot luck dinner at Greenbriar Park Center at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share. Beverages provided. Bring slides to show. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. For further information, contact Betty Wolfe at 301-824-5391.

Saturday, January 28

GULL DAY '95. Fourth annual regional mid-winter gull survey. (See article in this issue.) For further information or to volunteer, contact the coordinators, Rick Blom at 410-893-4339 or Gene Scarpulla at 410-821-0575.

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Winter Gull Trip. Destination will be determined by the leader. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. Bring lunch. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Stasz at 410-257-9540.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Field Trip for coastal waterfowl. Begin at the Ocean City inlet and travel back along the coast, with stops at Indian River Inlet, Cape Henlopen, Prime Hook, Little Creek, Port Mahon, and Bombay Hook. Almost any waterfowl possible, plus Snowy Owl, Northern Gannet, pelagic birds. First of three monthly trips. For further information, contact the leaders, Scott and Kelly Powers at 410-658-2368.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. Field trip to waterfowl banding. For further information, call Vernon Stotts at 410-827-8152.

(continued at top of next page)

Thursday, February 2

MEETING. Frederick. "Wild Turkeys" by Frank Ryan. 7:30 p.m. at Frederick High School. For further information, contact Bob Johnsson at 301-371-5215.

Friday, February 3

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Loggerhead Shrikes of Maryland" by Laurie MacIvor. 8:00 p.m. at Severn River Junior High School, Peninsula Farm Rd., Arnold

Saturday, February 4

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Bradenbaugh. Morning trip for pipits, larks, winter sparrows, and waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Bethel Presbyterian Church, 1/4-mile west of Madonna Road on MD 23. For further information contact the leader, Dennis Kirkwood, at 410-692-5905.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. "Owl-It" Owling Expedition. Meet at 4:00 p.m. at Old Montrose School, 5721 Randolph Rd. (at Rockville Pike). Dress for very cold weather. Reservations required. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Tom Valega, at 301-984-9453 or at 301-424-7289.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Ocean City, MD To Broadkill Marsh. Wintering waterfowl, gulls, terns, shorebirds. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Ocean City Inlet parking lot. Bring scope. Reservations required. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, John Bjerke, at 301-963-8525

Sunday, February 5

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Remington Farms, Eastern Neck NWR, Kent Co. Waterfowl and wintering birds. Meet 7:30 a.m. at Busch's Chesapeake Inn parking lot on Rt. 50. Bring lunch. For further information, contact the leaders, Mary O'Leary at 410-757-6290, or Bobbi Reichwein at 410-451-2671.

Tuesday, February 7

MEETING. Baltimore. "The Changing Taxonomy of Birds" by Eirik Blom. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. For further information, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

Thursday, February 9

MEETING. Montgomery. "Save Our Songbirds: Adopt an Acre" by George Jett, noted bird photographer. 8:00 p.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac.

Friday, February 10

MEETING. Cecil. Program TBA. 7:00 PM at St. Mary Anne's Parish in North East. Call Gary Griffith at 410-392-4491 for details.

Saturday, February 11

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. New Design Road and Lily Pons. Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, sparrows and hawks. Scopes recommended. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Security Blvd Park & Ride lot. For further information, contact the leader, Leader: Jim Wilkinson at 410-381-9250.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Field Trip for coastal waterfowl. Begin at the Ocean City inlet and travel back along the coast, with stops at Indian River Inlet, Cape Henlopen, Prime Hook, Little Creek, Port Mahon, and Bombay Hook. Almost any waterfowl possible, plus Snowy Owl, Northern Gannet, pelagic birds. Second of three monthly trips. For further information, contact the leaders, Scott and Kelly Powers at 410-658-2368.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Sandy Hook area of the C&O Canal to look for waterfowl and other wintering birds. Trip departs Frederick at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Linda Keller, at 301-834-7312.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Patuxent River & Triadelphia Reservoir. For beginners or birders new to area. Participation is limited to 15 — please contact the leader, Norm Saunders, at 301-989-9035, evenings before 8:30 p.m., for information or to reserve your spot on this half-day trip. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the spot designated by the leader.

Thursday, February 16

MEETING. Caroline. "Pickering Creek Environmental Center" by Stuart Strahl. 7:30 p.m. at Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Meeting Room, 24820 Meeting House Road, Denton.

Saturday-Monday, February 18-20

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Annual Winter Weekend. Winter birding in areas to the north this year. Meet at Busch's Chesapeake Inn parking lot on Rt. 50. Make reservations by Feb 11. For further information and reservations, contact the leaders, Al Haury at 410-757-3523 or Peter Hanan at 410-721-2658.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Presidents Birthday Weekend (Joint trip with ANS). Delmarva Peninsula—Ocean City, MD, to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. Reservations required. For further information, contact the leader, Paul DuMont, at 703-931-8994

Saturday, February 18

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cape Henlopen-Ocean City. Trip to Delaware coast and Ocean City in search of winter seabirds. Scoters, Oldsquaw, Brant, Purple Sandpipers, Red-throated Loons, and Gannets are likely. Possibilities include eiders, Harlequin Ducks, and rare gulls. All-day trip with fast-food meal stops. Telescopes useful. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Nursery Road - Hammonds Ferry Road Park & Ride lot. Optional meeting place - Cape May-Lewes Ferry parking lot at 9:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. "Feeder Talk" at Shirley & Vern Stotts'. For further information, call Vernon Stotts at 410-827-8152.

Sunday, February 19

FIELD TRIP. Harford. MD/DE coast. Possible species include gannet, sea ducks, Short-eared Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, and Purple Sandpiper. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the MD 155/I-95 commuter lot outside Havre de Grace. All-day trip; scopes recommended. For further information contact the leader, Les Eastman, at 410-734-6969.

Friday, February 24

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Field Trip to Courthouse Point for migrant waterfowl. An excellent opportunity for Cecil Listers. For further information, contact Gary Griffith at 410-392-4491.

Saturday, February 25

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Greenbury Point, Holly Beach Farm. Lots of waterfowl. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Al Haury at 410-757-3523.

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NESTING BOX WORKSHOP. Harford. Pre-order from five different rough-cut, cedar designs, then assemble the box at Conowingo Visitors Center located next to Conowingo Dam. Fee charged for materials. Call June Vaughn by February 2 for information/orders at 410-457-5011, weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. Field trip to waterfowl banding. For further information, call Vernon Stotts at 410-827-8152.

Monday, February 27

MEETING. Wicomico. "Audubon Ecology Camp in the West" by Celeste Bunting. 7:30 p.m. at the Asbury United Methodist Church, Salisbury.

Thursday, March 2

MEETING. Frederick. "A Trip to Alaska" by Ian Cornelias. 7:30 p.m. at Frederick High School. For further information, contact Bob Johnsson at 301-371-5215.

Friday, March 3

MONTHLY AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Gone Birding" by Phil Davis. 8:00 p.m. at Severn River Junior High School, Peninsula Farm Rd., Arnold

MEETING. Baltimore. "Birds of the Bahamas" by Tony White. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center. For reservations call Mary Byers at 410-686-7294.

DINNER MEETING. Harford. "Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release" by Debbie Delevan. Dinner served at 6:15 p.m., followed by business meeting and speaker. Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. Dinner reservations required by February 22. For further information, call Jean Fry at 410-452-8539.

Saturday, March 4

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Baltimore Harbor for wintering waterfowl, gulls and ???. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Harbor Hospital Center south parking lot off Hanover Street just south of the bridge. For further information, contact the leader, Mark Pemburn, at 410-467-4737.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Loch Raven Reservoir. Morning trip for Fox Sparrow, Purple Finch, Pileated Woodpecker, and migrant waterfowl. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Youths Benefit Elementary School on MD 152, 1/2-mile southeast of Pleasantville Road. For further information contact the leader, Mark Johnson, at 410-679-3788.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Piney Run for waterfowl. Trip departs Frederick at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Helen Horrocks, at 301-831-6315.

Friday, March 10

MEETING. Cecil. Program TBA. 7:00 PM at St. Mary Anne's Parish in North East. Call Gary Griffith at 410-392-4491 for details.

Saturday, March 11

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Woodcock Trip. Woodcock courtship displays. Meet 3:30 p.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. For further information, contact the leader, Eileen McLellan at 410-626-8950.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Gunpowder State Park for late winter birds and waterfowl. Slow easy walk. Telescopes useful. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the White Marsh Mall on the NE side of Sears. For further information, contact the leader, Bob Rineer at 410-391-8499.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Field Trip for coastal waterfowl. Begin at the Ocean City inlet and travel back along the coast, with stops at Indian River Inlet, Cape Henlopen, Prime Hook, Little Creek, Port Mahon, and Bombay Hook. Almost any waterfowl possible, plus Snowy Owl, Northern Gannet, pelagic birds. Last of three monthly trips. For further information, contact the leaders, Scott and Kelly Powers at 410-658-2368.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Jug Bay (Joint trip with ANS). Reservations required. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, John Bjerke, at 301-963-8525.

Sunday, March 12

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Loch Raven. Waterfowl and land birds, Bald Eagle, bluebirds, Fox Sparrow possible. Telescopes useful. Two-mile level walk. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Timonium Park & Ride Lot. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Simon at 410-628-1929.

Monday, March 13

MEETING. Kent. "How Watersheds Work" by Worrall "Nick" Carter. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library in Chestertown.

Tuesday-Thursday, March 14-16

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Timberdoodle Watch. Dusk outings for displaying American Woodcock. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at William Paca Elementary School on MD 7, 1/4-mile north of MD 24. For further information contact Russ Kozach at 410-679-0535, weekdays after 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 16

MEETING. Caroline. "Spring Warblers" by L. T. Short. 7:30 p.m. at Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Meeting Room, 24820 Meeting House Road, Denton.

Friday, March 17

MEETING. Montgomery. Annual social and election of officers. 8:00 p.m. at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac.

Sunday, March 19

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. Early shorebirds and late waterfowl. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Dotty Mumford at 410-849-8336.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Centennial Lake. Half day trip for early waterfowl and other early migrants and lingering winter residents. Meet at 8:00 a.m. the tennis courts at Centennial Lake. For further information, contact the leader, Burton Alexander at 410-381-5574.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Morning trip with possible Horned Grebe, Pine Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and bay ducks. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the post's MD 24 gate. For further information contact either Les Eastman at 410-734-6969 or Wyatt Wallace at 410-642-6457.

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Saturday, March 25

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. National Zoo, Washington, DC Study the birds and animals up close. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Plaza parking lot, on the Riva Rd. side next to the cemetery. Bring lunch. For further information, contact the leaders, Kathy & Gladys Lambert at 410-867-4056.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Deal Island and Other Eastern Shore Locations. Late winter waterfowl, raptors and early spring arrivals, especially herons and shorebirds. Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl possible. Telescopes useful. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Nursery Road - Hammonds Ferry Road Park & Ride lot. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Sanford at 410-922-5103.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Black Hills Reservoir. Trip departs Frederick at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Linda Keller, at 301-834-7312.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Back River Sewage Treatment Plant. Bonaparte's, Common Black-headed, and Little Gulls possible. Meet at 8 a.m. at the MD 152 Park 'n' Ride at I-95 near Joppatowne. Spotting scopes helpful. For further information contact Dave Webb at 410-569-0107.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Super Fresh parking lot. For further information, call Vernon Stotts at 410-827-8152.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Black Hill Regional Park. Trip for beginners or birders new to area. Participation is limited to 15 — please contact the leader, Norm Saunders, at 301-989-9035, evenings before 8:30 p.m., for information or to reserve your spot on this half-day trip. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the spot designated by the leader.

Sunday, March 26

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Piney Run. Wintering and early spring migrant waterfowl and land birds. Telescopes useful. Hilly lakeside walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Piney Run Park. For further information, contact the leader, Burton Alexander at 410-381-5574.

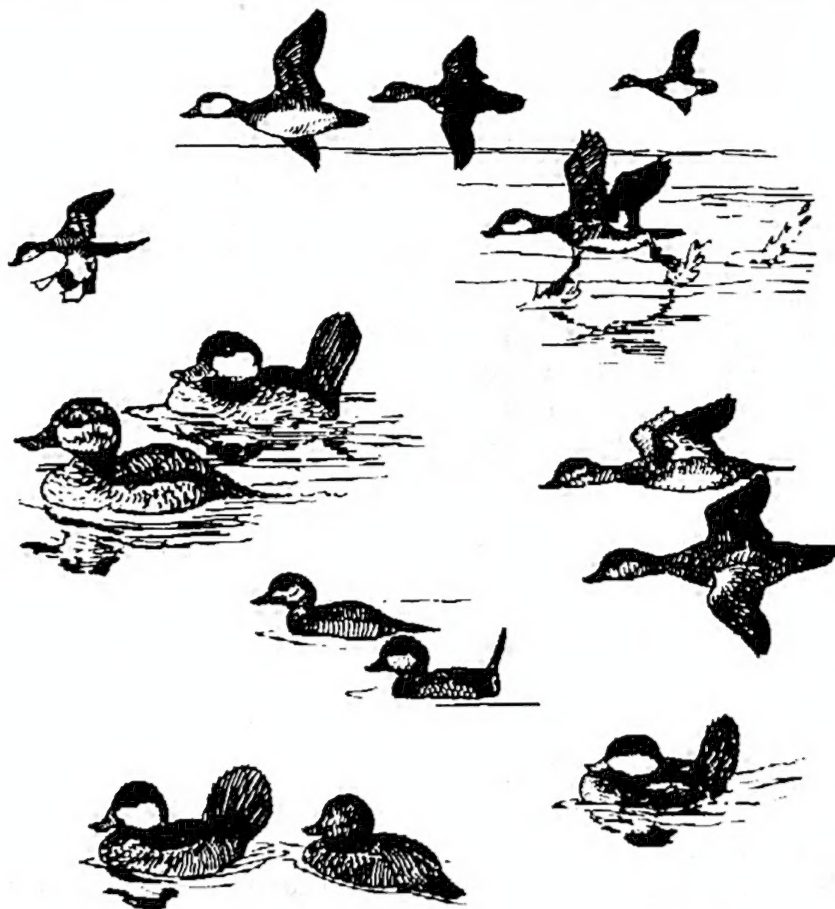
FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Trail Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at front porch of Cylburn Mansion for a casual self-guided walk. For further information, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217.

Monday, March 27

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING. Wicomico. This meeting will be held at the Wicomico Presbyterian Church beginning with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Bring a covered dish large enough to serve eight people. This special program will feature the *Scales and Tales Program* from the Maryland State Park Foundation. This evening's program is titled *Wings and Things*.

Tuesday, March 28

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Adelaide Rackemann at 410-823-4709.



Bird Seed Sale

25 lb. Blk Oil Sunflower	\$8.99	25 lb Peanuts	\$25.99
50 lb. Blk Oil Sunflower	\$16.99	25 lb Sunfl. Chips	\$21.99
8 lb. Thistle	\$8.99	25 lb. Safflower	\$15.99
25 lb.	\$24.99	25 lb Millet	\$8.99



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M-S 10-6
Thurs. 10-8
Sun. 12-5

The copy deadline for the March/April issue of the Yellowthroat is January 25 for chapter activities and February 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for March through May to:

Les Eastman
4034 Wilkinson Rd.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
W: 410-671-3490
H: 410-734-6969

Please send all other information to the editor:

Norman C. Saunders
1261 Cavendish Drive
Colesville, MD 20905
H: 301-989-9035
W: 202-606-5723

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